Babatunde Spencer, chairperson
Paul Robeson Library Committee
Student Activities Center
Box 40, George ST
New Brunswick, N.J. 08903

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21702
11/17/90

Dear Babatunde Spencer,

Please do not misunderstand my salutation but I am not familiar with the name and do not know if you are a man or a woman.

I have no memorabilia, but if you do not have it, I have an original pressing of Ballad for Americans and possibly some other original 78 records. I do not recall which disappeared when I was in the army in World War II. But we were his fans and we got every record of which we knew.

African American history can cover quite a bit. If you intend to include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I have about 65,000 pages of the FBI records relating to his assassination and its investigation and some, not nearly so much, from the Department of Justice and the CIA. If you want to copy them you are welcome to do that.

When Mr. Robeson went to Washington before Pearl Harbor to sing and perhaps to address a peace meeting I met him at old National Airport, which was where the Pentagon now is, and drove him to friends of his I think were on the Howard University faculty, then picked him up and took him to the meeting, after which I drove him where he wanted to go. I now do not remember where that was.

He had a truly magnificent singing voice but what I've never seen mentioned is that in conversation his voice was also wonderfully musical.

Paul Robesson was, in every way, a truly great man. I am very pleased that you have undertaken to memorialize him in the Special Paul Robeson Section of the library of his alma mater.

It is a fine project and I wish you the best of luck with it!

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. I am 77 years old now. If in the future you know of any students or others who are interest in the records I have, referred to above, they will be part of a public archive at local Hood College.

Those records include what I was able to get by FOIA litigation on the FBI's spying and other intrusions into the sanitation-workers strike in support of which Dr. King was in Memphis and on the group of young blacks who called themselves The Invaders. This archive will include all I have. Most of it relates to the assassination of President Kennedy and its official investigations, in all about a third of a million pages.